

Equal Rights

VOL. XIV, No. 37
FIVE CENTS

1928
OCT 20
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 20, 1928



OFF TO THE FRONT

Mabel Vernon, Executive Secretary of the National Woman's Party, and Mary Moss Wellborn leaving National Headquarters of the Woman's Party for the opening of campaign headquarters in New York City, where they will work for the election of Mr. Hoover and Senator Curtis as the Presidential candidates whose election offers the best hope for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Louise Weir of Mississippi is seen in the background.

Equal Rights



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of the
National Woman's Party
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Published Weekly
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Baltimore, Md.
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Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice,
Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, \$2.00 a Year

Foreign Subscription, \$2.50

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]

Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1928,

by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS, Kansas.

Introduced in the House, May 18, 1928,

by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY, Pennsylvania.

Judged by His Record

MISS FRANCES PERKINS of the New York State Industrial Commission, speaking recently at a Democratic women's meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, urged her hearers to support Governor Smith in the coming election on the ground of his magnificent record with regard to welfare legislation. Miss Perkins told in detail how, from his first entry into public life many years ago, Governor Smith had always actively sponsored industrial legislation applying to women, but not to men.

The ten-hour law, the eight-hour law, the no-night work law, all were brought forward as proof positive that women should support Governor Smith in the present campaign. And to the horror of the few members of the Woman's Party who were present the Democratic women applauded Miss Perkins' remarks lustily and long.

They were apparently prepared to judge Governor Smith by his record on legislation affecting women only, and so are we.

Governor Smith is, as Miss Perkins quite unintentionally pointed out, the most formidable enemy of Equal Rights in public life today, for he strikes at the very root of women's emancipation, namely, their earning power.

IN SPITE of the protests of wage-earning women, Governor Smith has in all his messages to the New York Legislature recommended the passage of an eight-hour day and 48-hour week, and other special restrictive laws for women only.

He has actively sponsored eight-hour legislation applying to women, but not to men, which would forbid more than nine days overtime for women throughout the entire year.

We have on file voluminous testimony from wage-earning women as to the nefarious results of this type of sex-linked legislation. Speaking before the New York Senate Committee on Labor and Industries in 1925, Edith G. Waterman, a wage-earning woman, pointed out one of the many ways in which welfare laws may injure the working woman:

"I have worked for 18 years," said Miss Waterman, "This 48-hour law would harm women in our plant, because our work mingles with that of the men, and it is required that the men and women should work the same number of hours. If not, and this law is enforced, the result will be that all of the women will be replaced by men."

IT IS to be remembered that there is an immense difference between the trade union eight-hour day and the eight-hour law for women only sponsored by Governor Smith.

An eight-hour day is a schedule for all workers, men and women. It is arrived at through voluntary agreement between employer and employe, or through trade union agreement. It always provides for overtime, in case of necessity or emergency, usually with time and a half or double pay for overtime.

An eight-hour law, on the contrary, as existing for factories and mercantile establishments, and as sponsored by Governor Smith, applies to women only. Men would not accept such a law for themselves. It forbids overtime. It specifies the hours when a woman may work. It makes it impossible for a woman to have equal opportunities of securing employment because the hours she can offer her employer are fewer than those which a man can offer. It prevents equal pay with a man worker because the hours of service are unequal. It causes many women to lose their employment and be replaced by men. It in many cases prevents women from being hired as executives in mercantile establishments, as all responsible positions now and then require overtime. It limits a woman's earning power and handicaps her in earning her livelihood. This is particularly true of the large percentage of women who are on piece-work and must make up in busy seasons the wages lost in dull seasons.

YET in spite of all these facts and in the face of the active opposition of industrial women, Governor Smith endorsed and pushed through to passage in New York State the eight-hour law for women alone. Doubtless if he were to become President he would endeavor to make this and other restrictive laws nation-wide in their scope.

We submit therefore that judged by his record Governor Smith is a candidate whom no believer in Equal Rights can legitimately support.

Equal Rights Issue Stirs Street Audiences

THE interest of New York City in the issue of EQUAL RIGHTS was promptly demonstrated when the National woman's Party inaugurated its series of street meetings on October 10.

Purple, white, and gold flags which have figured in so many campaigns of national significance, and a new banner containing the words, "National Woman's Party Supports Hoover and Curtis as Candidates Whose Election Offers Greatest Hope for Equal Rights," decorated the touring car from which the first street speeches were made along Broadway. Mrs. John Jay White presided over these meetings, and it was her car which carried the message.

Mabel Vernon, national executive secretary of the Woman's Party, Jane Norman Smith, national chairman, Mary Murray, chairman of the Industrial Council, and Ella Sherwin spoke at the first two meetings at 96th Street and Broadway, and at 86th Street and Broadway.

Mrs. Murray and Miss Sherwin told from their own experience as workers the handicaps which restrictive labor legislation places upon women wage-earners, and pointed out that Governor Alfred E. Smith, Democratic nominee for President, sponsors such legislation. Mrs. Murray said that she is a Democrat, and would vote for Governor Smith were it not for the Equal Rights issue, which she,

with thousands of other women, believes to be paramount. On account of Governor Smith's opposition to industrial equality between men and women, she cannot support him, she said.

The Equal Rights campaigners stayed at 96th and Broadway until 10 P. M., and, Miss Vernon reports, the crowd would have remained until midnight to listen if the speakers had remained to speak, but they moved on to 86th and Broadway, and there got another crowd quickly interested in the Equal Rights issue. The crowd at 86th and Broadway did not stir until the speakers moved on at 11 P. M.

At both meetings, Leila Enders of New Jersey, Kathrun Miller, and Mary Moss Wellborn of Mississippi passed out hundreds of Equal Rights leaflets, carrying on the message of Equal Rights between men and women.

Both the New York and the New Jersey committees were very enthusiastic about the plan to concentrate national activities in those two States, which are considered pivotal in this election. The New York campaign will be centered in New York City, where the difficulties placed upon women by restrictive labor legislation has been most keenly felt.

In New Jersey, the campaign will be centered in Hudson, Essex, and Sussex counties. Leila Enders, Mrs. George T. Vickers, Minnie S. Karr, and Mrs. Laird,

all members of the New Jersey committee, attended the conference of the National Council and Eastern States officers held at the home of Mrs. John Winters Brannan, 66 East 79th Street, New York City, on October 9. The National Council met at 1 P. M., and the conference with New York and New Jersey officers was held at 3 P. M.

This New Jersey committee will take an active part in the New Jersey campaign. Maud Younger, national campaign manager, will speak in Hudson, Essex, and Sussex counties during the last three weeks of the campaign.

A campaign dinner was held in New York City at the Town Hall Club on October 18, with Miss Younger, Miss Vernon, and Mrs. Murray as the principal speakers.

The New York campaign will consist largely of street meetings, held in front of factories and places of business during the noon hour, and in uptown districts in the evening.

Everywhere the campaigners are finding great enthusiasm about Equal Rights as an issue in the election, and are redoubling their efforts for the election of Herbert Hoover and Charles Curtis, sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment, as the only candidates whose election offers hope for the prompt passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Way Open for Women Plenipotentiaries

WOMEN of all the governments participating in the World Conference on the Codification of International Law are expected to carry on the work started by the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party.

As a result of the work of Doris Stevens, chairman of the Inter-American Commission, and Betty Gram Swing, secretary of the Committee on International Action, the First Commission of the League of Nations adopted the following resolution on September 13:

"The Assembly, having regard for the fact that the question of nationality which is on the agenda of the codification conference is of particular interest to women, and since Article 7 of the Covenant already provides for equal opportunity between men and women to positions and services of the League, expresses the wish that the Governments and members of the League of Nations called to the future conference on the codification of international law consider the desirability of taking into account these

considerations when forming their delegations."

This resolution is not as strong or as specific as that asked by the Feminist leaders, who proposed the following resolution:

"Believing that the question of the nationality of married women and children is of paramount importance to women of the world, we (the First Commission) recommend that women qualified to represent women's desires on this subject be included among the plenipotentiaries to the Hague Conference."

Nevertheless, the resolution adopted is deemed a victory of unusual importance, and is expected to be a splendid encouragement to the governments to appoint women to the codification conference, which will meet at the Hague next year. Women in every participating country will doubtless remind their governments that the First Commission has adopted this resolution, that it is essential to the interests of women that they be represented when their nationality and that of their children is to be considered, and that there

are women authorities on this subject qualified to contribute to the conference.

The resolution was proposed by Orestes Ferrara of Cuba, and seconded by Diogenes Escalante of Venezuela. It was supported by Henri Rolin of Belgium, rapporteur of the Commission, who spoke in favor of it, as did M. de Pallacios of Spain and M. Lo-Honai of China. No one spoke against it, and it was adopted unanimously. M. Temedei of Italy suggested that the wording be changed to read, "the desirability of taking into account these considerations when forming their delegations" instead of specifically calling for the inclusion of women delegates.

M. Lo-Honai made a most forthright and comprehensive declaration for Equal Rights, saying:

"Equality between men and women is an essential point of the program of the Nationalist Party of China under the present government. It has already named women in the administration and in the foreign diplomatic corps. The proposition under discussion has the sympathy of the Chinese Government."

"Certainly nobody will deny," said M. Rolin, "that the question of nationality

is of a nature especially interesting to women, since in international law is placed the great question of the nationality of the married woman and of her children. The covenant of the Society of Nations has, furthermore, already given an indication of its feeling, in proclaiming positions in its service open to women. It is further indisputable that women have played an honorable part in other delegations, and the Assembly of the League of Nations itself has designated women to take part on certain committees."

M. Rolin also pointed out that the Pan-American Congress at Havana had provided for an Inter-American Commission of Women to study the question of equality under the law in the republics of the Americas, and that this Commission is now studying the question of the nationality of married women.

Miss Stevens and Mrs. Gram-Swing were jubilant over the victory, and thanked the Belgian, Cuban, Venezuelan, Spanish, and Chinese members of the First Commission for piloting the resolution to its successful conclusion.

"With this declaration from the League

which issues the invitations to the codification conference, we shall now proceed to have women appointed by the several governments. They need not be women lawyers," said Miss Stevens. "It might be better if they were women qualified, rather, to represent the desire of women who have worked for years to clear up the chaotic condition now existing with relation to married women's nationality and the nationality of their children.

"Elaborate studies have already been made by the Inter-American Commission of Women and many other international women's organizations all over the world. There is almost unanimous opinion among all Feminist groups on what women want to propose to world jurists on this important subject. Six countries on the American continents have already eliminated marriage from nationality laws and from judicial decisions. The tendency in law and in public opinion today is not to force upon married women an alien nationality."

Unanimous approval by the First Commission makes it certain that this resolution will be carried by the Assembly.

"Women all over the world owe a debt

of gratitude to MM. Rolin, Ferrara and Escalante," said Miss Stevens, "for so willingly accepting and putting into action the idea that the time has come for women plenipotentiaries to help write world law which affects their status as vitally as does the question of married women's nationality and the nationality of their children. World jurists recognize the chaotic condition of nationality laws at the present time. Women in all walks of life have deep convictions on the injustice of being compelled by law, without their consent, to accept an alien nationality."

As a result of Miss Stevens' work, she was invited to address the banquet given by the International Union of Societies for the League of Nations to the Latin-American delegations, and to be the guest of honor at a dinner given by the Venezuelan delegation to the League of Nations.

Miss Stevens received a cablegram from Idola St. Jean, president of the Canadian Alliance for Women's Vote, saying, "Congratulations. Sympathy. Wonderful work."

Muna Lee Safe in Porto Rico

MEMBERS of the National Woman's Party who are deeply appreciative of the valuable work done by Muna Lee in helping launch the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women will be pleased to learn that she and her family came safely through the ruinous Porto Rico hurricane.

The University of Porto Rico, which so generously contributed Miss Lee's services to the Commission this summer, was not as fortunate as she was, however. Miss Lee is director of the Bureau of International Relations of this university.

The university, although almost wrecked by the terrific hurricane which left the island practically in ruins, immediately devoted all its facilities to caring for the victims of the storm, establishing a hospital, caring for the sick and starving, surveying the damage done in various sections of the island, extending its relief work to the remote districts, making clothing for the refugees, and furnishing information on conditions all over Porto Rico.

Then, writes Miss Lee, "All university departments joined in the task of salvage work. Library books have been dried, their bindings glued back into place, and made once more ready to use when the university reopens. Records from the Registrar's office have been salvaged. Furniture damaged by wind and rain is being repaired, trees are being pruned, rubbish disposed of, and the scarred and torn university campus is being brought

once more back to a peace-time appearance. Repair work on the greatly damaged buildings proceeds rapidly under the direction of the superintendent of buildings and grounds; and everything possible is done to make the school work of this year effective in spite of the greatly injured condition of university property.

"We have always worked under difficulties without money and equipment to meet more than the most pressing immediate needs . . . I do not know what will become of us now."

But in the next breath, Muna Lee declares, "Now more than ever I feel devoted to these people and determined to spend my life here, ruined or not." This is typical of the courageous spirit of the Porto Ricans, which Miss Lee so graphically describes.

Various people in the United States have already sent aid to the University of Porto Rico, which Miss Lee describes as "unique among all other schools in that it is a North American institution in a Latin-American environment, with a bi-cultural heritage and influence."

The Inter-American Commission of Women expressed its appreciation of Muna Lee's work in the following letter sent by Doris Stevens, chairman, to Dr. Thomas E. Benner, chancellor of the University of Porto Rico, at Rio Piedras, Porto Rico:

"On behalf of the Inter-American Commission of Women I want to tell you how

grateful we are to the University of Porto Rico for releasing Muna Lee de Muñoz Marín to help us launch the Commission's work.

"It is impossible to express adequately the two dominant emotions which fill our hearts now that Muna Lee de Muñoz Marín is about to leave us and return to her labors at the University of Porto Rico.

"Muna Lee has rendered most distinguished and unique services to the Inter-American Commission of Women in the difficult initial stages of our work. No one could have done so beautifully; no one could have so inspired confidence and widespread interest in the work we have undertaken, as Muna Lee has done. And so we are moved by profound regret that we shall lose from the Pan-American headquarters, a valiant ally and beloved comrade.

"We are also moved by the deepest gratitude to you personally and to the entire staff of the university, for allowing her to give us so generously of her strength and talents. I speak for all the members of the Commission and the volunteer staff which has been aiding us this summer, when I say that not only we of the Inter-American Commission of Women, but the whole woman movement are your debtors. Through you, the University of Porto Rico has made a noble and beautiful contribution to improving the status of women on this hemisphere, which we trust will bring the rewards to your university which you so richly merit.

We know Feminism will be permanently benefitted by your help at this urgent moment."

Dr. Benner replied:

"Your recent letter expressing appreciation of the services of Muna Lee de Muñoz Marín, who was loaned to the

Inter-American Commission of Women by the University of Porto Rico, was received this morning. I thank you for your expression of appreciation of our co-operation. May I add also that I am delighted with the successes which Miss Lee has had in Washington?

"As you have opportunities to speak a good word for this institution or to direct toward it the interest of philanthropists, you might be able to assist us in the important work we are carrying on, may we not count on you to do what you can for the cause which we represent?"

Doris Stevens Addresses International Club

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends of Latin America:

THE Secretary-General of the International Union of Societies for the League of Nations has asked me to speak to you tonight in my capacity as chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and to tell you something of the purpose of this commission.

The question of the civil and political equality of women was on the agenda of the Sixth Pan-American Conference due to the initiative of Guatemala and Costa Rica. A committee of North American women, under the direction of the National Woman's Party of the United States went to Havana to join with the South and Central American women in presenting a method whereby the women of all the Americas might establish equality before the law. To this end we proposed to the plenipotentiaries a treaty drawn up by Miss Alice Paul, doctor of civil laws (U. S. A.) which, when ratified, would make the legal position of women in the countries of the signatories equal to that of men. This was the first time in the history of the world that women on any continent had proposed treaty action as a means to raise their legal status. But we are aware that women as well as men must act internationally.

It does the men of the Americas credit that they set aside a whole afternoon in plenary session to hear our demand—a demand revolutionary in thought perhaps, but not in international procedure. For we had seen how many conventions had already been written by the International Labor Office, both for and against equality of treatment between men and women in industry.

Our treaty proposal was heard amidst mingled astonishment and admiration—astonishment at its comprehensive nature, and admiration for our courage in asking so much at one time. Our treaty was generously heard but not signed at that time.

The other thing which women proposed was the creation of a Commission of Women empowered to make a research of the existing status of women in the Americas and to report their recommendations to the Seventh Pan-American Conference. This proposal was agreed to unanimously. The plenipotentiaries assembled saw the wisdom of letting women decide what international agreements they wished to see consummated on their own behalf before legislating any further. For it has

Doris Stevens, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and also chairman of the Women's Committee on International Action, organized by the National Woman's Party, made this speech at the banquet given in the International Club of Geneva on September 17 in honor of the delegates of the Latin-American countries to the League of Nations, under the auspices of the International Union of Societies for the League of Nations.

Miss Stevens was the only woman among eleven speakers, the only woman with the thirty-five men at the speakers' table.

S. E. M. Adatci, first delegate from Japan and vice-president of the Ninth Assembly, League of Nations, presided, speaking in Spanish. Professor Th. Ruysen, secretary-general of the International Union of Societies for the League of Nations, was the first speaker, using French. Count Johann-Heinrich von Bernstoff, German Ambassador, spoke in English. Le Marquis de la Torrehermosa spoke next, in Spanish, followed by Rene Cassin, assistant delegate of France, and professor of law at Lille University, using his native tongue. Francisco de Calheiros E. Menezes of Portugal followed M. Cassin, and he spoke in Portuguese. Comte Lelio Bonin-Lingare followed, speaking in Italian. Next came Doris Stevens' speech, in English. Orestes Ferrara, first delegate from Cuba, who introduced the resolution for women plenipotentiaries adopted by the First Commission, followed Miss Stevens, speaking in French.

Others at the guest table included: Jorge Valdes-Mendeville of Chile, Minister at Rerue and head of the Permanent Secretariat, League of Nations; Efrain Gaitan Hurtado of Colombia, director of the diplomatic section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Adolpho Sleura, secretary-general of the delegation from Uruguay; Cesar Zumeta, first delegate of Venezuela; Octavo Mendez Pereira, first delegate of Panama; Caballero de Bredoya, first delegate of Paraguay; Dlogenes Escalante, second delegate of Venezuela; J. A. Izquierdo, substitute delegate of Cuba; Alfred Nemours, first delegate of Haiti; Ernest Blythe, first delegate of the Irish Free State; Leopoldo Palacios Morini, delegate of Spain; Julio Cesares y Sanchez, substitute delegate of Spain, and member of the Royal Academy; Juan Areuzana of Spain; Gustavo Guerrero, first delegate of Salvador.

Among the American women present at the banquet were: Violet Oakley, painter chosen to decorate the Pennsylvania State Capitol; Emily Green Balch, president of the United States Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Helen Hoy Greeley, authority on international law; Florence Holbrook, principal of a junior high school in Chicago, poet, and student of international affairs; Anne Zueblin, assistant to the secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Evelyn Newman, dean of women, State Teachers' College, Greeley, Colorado, writer on international affairs; Katherine Devereux Blake, educator, and special correspondent of the New York *Evening World*.

Mme. Malaterre-Sellier of France and Dr. Rosa Welt Straus of Palestine, both members of the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party, were also present.

become fairly clear now to wise men, that laws, whether national or international, written for our good without our consent, may not seem to us to be for our good. And then we must go through the tedious procedure of undoing laws written with the best of intentions for our

good. The dangerous philosophy that one race, one State, one class, or one sex knows best what another race, State, class or sex needs is no longer as popular as it once was. It is against the democratic trend. Enlightened opinion comes more and more to believe that one group knows best its own needs.

Acting on this principle the Sixth Pan-American Conference created by resolution, and the Pan-American Governing Board executed the resolution, this juridical commission of women now known as the Inter-American Commission of Women. It will eventually be composed of one woman representing each of the twenty-one republics of the Pan-American Union. This means that for the first time in history twenty-one governments, with all the prestige that that involves, will have appointed women to raise their own legal status. That, you will agree, is a distinguished and civilized contribution to our permanent culture.

It seemed advisable to take up as our first juridical study the question of the nationality of married women and their children. Here we were guided by the fact that the League of Nations had taken the initiative in calling a world codification conference to The Hague next year, and that the codification committee had put the question of nationality on its agenda.

We thereupon decided to come to ask the League's co-operation in suggesting to the governments invited, that women be among the plenipotentiaries to the Hague conference. Our friend and counsellor, Ambassador Ferrara of Cuba, seconded by M. Escalante of Venezuela, proposed to the First Commission that this be done. Last week the First Commission accepted unanimously this proposal, in slightly changed form, to be sure, not as energetically expressed as was originally proposed, but the purpose of the resolution is that women shall be among the delegations to The Hague, since women have a special interest in nationality.

After all, it is our nationality that is at stake. And it would seem peculiarly within our domain to assist in codifying international law on this point. Women have deep convictions on this subject. And the great laws are those born of deep convictions. Then, too, law once written is alarmingly permanent, especially if it is not a wise law. And we of the Americas expect to send some women to see that

the most enlightened law on our nationality is written. We hope all the other countries of the world will do likewise.

Since coming to Geneva I have been told that this is the first time that an official body of the Pan-American Union has asked the co-operation of the League of Nations in a juridical undertaking. I do not know if this is true. But if it is, I am doubly glad that the Inter-American Commission of women has the honor to be the initiator. Perhaps this will encourage others to follow our example.

Frankly it would never have occurred to the chairman of this commission to ascertain if this was usual procedure. We were appointed to safeguard the international interests of women. We saw

the League of Nations planning this world codification conference. We came directly here to express our desire to co-operate and to get the League's help in making such co-operation effective. We were not disappointed. The action of the First Commission will result in raising women to the highest status they have yet attained, that of plenipotentiaries.

You see, we women are amateurs in the international field. Being amateurs we are not enmeshed in the rules of diplomatic etiquette. We only see the forthright common-sense way to proceed. That, I think, is often a great asset. And we should not have the slightest objection as amateurs, if the old-world statesmen who are building a new world in Geneva could

proceed with as little circumlocution and disregard for conventionalities. And so we return to the Americas feeling that the first attempt of amateurs has been productive.

The world is our forum. We do not believe in dividing hemispheres any more than we believe in dividing sexes. What are hemispheres; what are continents; what are States? Nothing more, in the last analysis, than communities of men and women. Stripped of its juridical robes, the Inter-American Commission of Women deals with that all-important and enduring relationship — the relation of man to woman. I think we can all agree there is nothing more important in the whole world.

Spanish Women in Public Office

SPAIN is ruled by a dictator, but there are eleven women in its National Assembly, and they appear to be representative women. The Spanish correspondent—her name is not given—who sends information about them to *La Francaise*, says that notwithstanding the real merit of most of these women, there are plenty of others in Spain fully capable of filling seats in the Assembly, who were not appointed because either they or their male relatives are liberals or opponents of the dictatorship.

The following notes on the women who were appointed are culled from her statements.

Maria de la Natividad Dominguez Atalaya, writer and teacher, is a professor at the School of Commerce, which is connected with the Higher Normal School, and also at the Higher Institute of Teaching for Women. She is especially concerned with educational problems and women's demands.

Micaela Diaz y Rabaneda is also a professor at a Normal School, a writer, and assistant municipal councillor at Madrid.

Carmen Cuesta del Muro, still another Normal School professor, is also a lawyer. She is one of the secretaries of the National Assembly, and recently introduced "several bills in favor of working-women."

Maria de Echarri y Martinez, a former factory inspector, is a member of the Institute of Social Reform and of the Superior Council on Emigration.

Maria Lopez de Sagredo y Andres is a publicist, municipal councillor at Barcelona, and a member of the Children's Court. She is devoted to social welfare work and Catholic charities. In the Assembly she is especially concerned with "questions relating to women and children."

Concepción Loring y Heredia is interested in introducing the study of religion

into school and college curricula.

Maria de Maeztu y Whitney, holder of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Letters from the Universities of Salamanca and Madrid, is a member of the Spanish Society of America and holder of an honorary degree from Smith College. She is principal of a school and director of a residence for women students. She has represented Spain at many foreign conferences.

Isidra Quesada y Gutierrez de los Rios, Comtesse de Aguilar de Inestrillas, is the vice-president general of an organization for the abolition of the traffic in women.

Blanca de los Rios de Lamperez is a novelist and historian, a member of learned societies, and of the Superior Committee of Relief of Madrid. She was the first woman to be decorated with the Grand Cross of Alfonso XII.

Trinidad von Scholty-Hermens Dorff, Duchesse de Parcent, is of German origin, but Spanish by marriage. She is wealthy, a patron of art and of young artists, also of deaf-mutes.

Maria Lopez Monleon is the president of the Regional Confederation of Unions of Catholic Working Women of Valencia, a member of the National Confederation of Catholic Working Women, and a member of the Committee for Social Reforms. She represents the Catholic Workers' Party in the Assembly.

The correspondent of *La Francaise* adds that the majority of the women in political life in Spain have shown themselves, despite lack of preparation, capable of fulfilling the duties of citizens. She cites the successful administration by three women of the affairs of the village of Talladell in Catalonia, which had been so mismanaged by their male predecessors that when the mayor and her colleagues took office the town was without schools and light, the telephone and water supply were out of order, and the roads almost impassable. There are now two schools, the town is

lighted, the roads excellent, and the water supply and telephone will soon be working.

Two Spanish Feminists notable for their interest in the advancement of women are Isabel Rodriguez de Castro and Melchora Herrero de Vidal. Professor Herrero de Vidal has made a reputation for herself as an educator and as a writer, and especially as a defender of the rights of women.

Mme. Rodriguez de Castro, described as one of the boldest and yet best-balanced thinkers in the Spanish Feminist movement, protests against the ancient law and custom which sanctions such injustice as taking the control of her children from a widow who remarries, and such barbarity as permits the killing of a wife caught in infidelity, without even the protection accorded to traitors under the common law. She declares that women have a *right* to employment and responsibility and that their task is to obtain these.

Equality for Spanish women, both in franchise and in public office, was promised by Primo de Rivera in an interview granted a correspondent of *La Petite Gironde* at the border town of San Sebastian.

"Justice must prevail," said the dictator of Spain. "Humanity can not always remain divided in its rights and duties. I have given municipal votes to women. They are now city councillors in Madrid, San Sebastian, in fact in all big cities, and we have delegated fourteen women to our great assembly. Moreover, I recognize that I could not have obtained the perfect results realized in the 5,000 schools I have just thrown open if I had not had the women to second me in that task.

"Very shortly I am going to give them not only the vote but make them eligible for other public offices. Women as well as men must work on legislative projects and give their opinion on all questions."

Press Comment

*Time and Tide,
London, England,
September 28, 1928.*

THE conference on the codification of International law, which is expected to meet next summer at the Hague, will deal with the question of nationality in all its bearings, including married women's nationality. The findings of the conference will when ratified by the various countries concerned, settle world-law on this as on other matters for many years to come. It is of vital importance, therefore, that those who believe that the State has no right to filch their nationality from any of its citizens because they choose to marry outside its jurisdiction, should see to it that the decisions come to at The Hague shall settle this matter in the right way. It may prove no easy matter to secure the assent of the assembled jurists to the necessary alteration of the law, since most of those gathered at The Hague will be men, and it needs imagination for a man who cannot thus be deprived of his own birthright to realize what it means for a woman to become an alien on marriage to an alien. But their assent must be secured.

A fine beginning has just been made at Geneva. The First Committee of the League has been discussing the arrangements for next year's Hague conference. On the proposition of M. Orestes Ferrara of Cuba, seconded by M. Diogenes Escalante of Venezuela and supported by M. Lo Honai of China, the commission has incorporated the following resolution in its report to the assembly: "The assembly, having regard for the fact that the question of nationality which is on the agenda of the codification conference is of particular interest to women, and since Article 7 of the Covenant already provides for equal opportunity between men and women to positions and services of the League, express the wish that the governments and members of the League of Nations called to the future conference on the codification of international law consider the desirability of taking into account these conditions when forming their delegations." Such a resolution will make it exceedingly difficult for governments to avoid including women among those whom they send to The Hague conference. Its passage is a very notable achievement. Miss Doris Stevens, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, went to Geneva expressly to advocate this resolution; she was joined there by members of the National Woman's Party of the United States. They are to be congratulated on this fine victory.

Unwarranted Interference

*Daily Palo Alto Times,
Palo Alto, Calif.,
September 21, 1928.*

THE Long Island Railroad has proclaimed a new policy in the hiring of help. At the end of the present year every married woman "whose husband is alive and able to work" will be discharged. The decree is the result, no doubt, of the railroad executives' idea that "woman's place is in the home," or kindred sentiments. But even granting that such is her place, the new policy is not defensible. Many a married woman with a husband who is both capable and industrious works at some job herself for reasons that are personal and sound. Many a married woman manages to work at a job because by so doing she can speed the day when the family will have its own home in which she may take her "place" with yet greater joy and dignity. In many an instance the present home itself is made happier because of the additional comforts which the money earned by the wife makes possible. There are yet other married women, professionally skilled, who see economy in the scheme under which they work at rather big salaries, being able to do so without neglect to the home because it is possible to employ a housekeeper at far less than the wife earns. The number of reasons why continuance of a married woman in employment might be justified, in spite of any basic social philosophy, can be continued indefinitely.

Summing up the whole situation, rules that arbitrarily bar married women from the wage-earning privilege represent an unwarranted interference with the private affairs of individuals.

Feminist Move Is Praised Here

Wilmington Morning News

THE world-wide notoriety following the arrest of Feminists in Paris led by Miss Doris Stevens, of the Woman's Party, who were arrested for their attempt to bring an Equal Rights treaty to the attention of the diplomats assembled to sign the anti-war pact, has struck a responsive chord in this city.

Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, national vice-chairman of the National Woman's Party, yesterday praised the action of her Parisian co-workers, declaring: "Women in every part of the world are giving proof of their determination to end the subjection of women. International action is needed to raise the status of women throughout the world. It was a woman, who in speaking of the sin of silence, said: 'The human race has climbed on protest;

the few who dare must work again to right the wrongs of many'. I rejoice in the valor of that little group of women in Paris, and knowing how misunderstood their brave effort will be by the many, all the more do I feel a sense of joy and pride in upholding them."

Miss Mabel Vernon, national executive secretary of the Woman's Party, who is now spending a few days at her home here explained that the Equal Rights Treaty for the purpose of removing all discriminations against women from the laws, was first proposed at the Pan-American Conference in Havana last winter.

"While women now vote in many countries," Miss Vernon said, "there is no denying the fact that they are still held in an inferior position in the laws and customs of every country, including our own. The swiftest way to end this condition is by international agreement. The arrest of the Feminists in Paris has greatly helped to call attention to the proposed Equal Rights Treaty and shows the determination of women to secure speedy action."

Sets Seal Upon Resolution

*New York Herald,
Paris, France,
September 20, 1928.*

the success obtained by the Inter-American Commission of Women and by the Committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party at Geneva Tuesday, where a resolution submitted by them to the first commission was unanimously approved.

The eligibility of women to positions and services of the League of Nations on an equal status with men, and the nationality rights of women of all nations in the event of marriage with men of other countries, was embodied in the resolution presented to the First Commission. Representing the two women's organizations were Miss Doris Stevens of New York, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and Mrs. Betty Gram Swing of England, secretary of the Committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party.

The resolution was offered to the official body of the League by Mr. Orestes Ferrara of Cuba, and was seconded by Mr. Diogenes Escalante of Venezuela. It was supported by M. Henri Rolin of Belgium, who reported it, and also by the delegates of Spain and China. There was no opposition.

The resolution as adopted reads as follows:

PARTICIPATION
by women in world politics, and more particularly in the machinery that directs international affairs, is seen in

"The assembly, having regard for the fact that the question of nationality which is on the agenda of the codification conference, is of particular interest to women, and since Article 7 of the Covenant already provides for equal opportunity between men and women to positions and services of the League, expresses the wish that the Governments called to the future conference on the codification of international law consider the desirability of taking into account these considerations when forming their delegations."

This move was made by the two prominent Feminists on the part of their organizations in anticipation of the Hague codification which will take place next year. The possibility of appointment of women plenipotentiaries to this conference is strengthened, therefore, by this undeniable Feminist victory.

Coming on the heels of the defeat suffered by the Feminist group in Paris several weeks ago, when their delegation was stopped by Rambouillet police on an at-

tempt to get a similar resolution to the plenipotentiaries lunching with President Doumergue, this event is hailed by European Feminists as a significant achievement and a compensation for their frustrated Paris action.

Announcement of adoption of the resolution was received yesterday by Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, president of the National Woman's Party, in a letter from Miss Stevens.

"With this declaration from the League which issues the invitations to the codification conference, we shall now proceed to have women appointed by the several governments. They need not be women lawyers," wrote Miss Stevens.

"It might be better if they were women qualified rather to represent the desire of women who have worked for years to clear up the chaotic condition now existing with relation to married women's nationality and the nationality of their children. Elaborate studies have already been made by the Inter-American Com-

mission of Women and many other international women's organizations all over the world.

"There is almost unanimous opinion among all Feminist groups on what women want to propose to world jurists on this important subject. Six countries on the American continent have already eliminated marriage from nationality laws and from judicial decisions. The tendency in law and in public opinion today is not to force upon married women an alien nationality.

"Unanimous approval by the first commission makes it certain that this resolution will be carried by the Assembly.

"Failure of our group in Paris may be attributed to their lack of preparedness, owing to insufficient time in which to marshal their forces," said Mrs. Belmont yesterday. "With a whole year ahead of them, in which to prepare for the Hague conference, it is certain that the part world Feminists will play there will be a victorious one."

Feminist Notes

Forbidding Earning Does Not Protect

A WRITER in *Le Mouvement Feministe* makes the following comment on a set of pictures and models illustrating special industrial legislation for women, which was shown at the recent Exposition of Swiss Women's Activities, known as the "Saffa," at Berne.

"The readers of *Le Mouvement Feministe* are aware of the difference of opinion on this subject in the Feminist movement, and the organizers of this display in the 'Saffa' evidently belong to the school which considers this protection necessary and beneficial. That the legal provision forbidding women to work for six weeks after confinement is, nevertheless, inadequate, is shown by a poster of the Swiss Union des Syndicats, which demands the establishment of maternity insurance, since it is only when the loss of income caused by this prohibition is compensated for by an insurance premium that such a legislative provision has good results."

Europe's First and Oldest Woman Doctor

DR. Mathilde Theyssen, who claims to be the first and oldest woman doctor in Europe, has just celebrated her ninety-thirtieth birthday in her home near Freiburg. During the Franco-German War, she attended the wounded on the battlefields and was herself twice injured. Dr. Theyssen is still strong and active.

Woman on Mandates Commission

M LLE. DAUNEVIK, a Norwegian, has been appointed a member of the Permanent Mandates Commission, to fill the place of the late Mme. Wicksell.

Feminist Candidate for Parliament

MONICA WHATELY, member of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (England), has been unanimously adopted as prospective Parliamentary Labor candidate for the St. Alban's Division of Hertfordshire. Miss Whately was a suffrage worker and is a sound Feminist.

From Typist to Manager

MAUD BARRETT, who started as a typist in the London Gas Light and Coke Company, is today the manager of a large section of the company's business and has control over 1,500 men.

Women and the London Chamber of Commerce

IN 1925, there were only five women members of the London Chamber of Commerce. There are now close on two hundred. Each of these women holds a high position in the business world, and earns from £1,000 to £10,000 a year.

A Chinese Girl Aviator

A CHINESE girl, aged 18, has recently been appointed flying instructor to the Chinese Nationalists.

Colored Women Physicians

THERE are 206 colored women physicians licensed to practice in the United States. The first was licensed by the State of Pennsylvania in 1888, followed by New York in 1889. Pennsylvania claims also the greatest number (32) of women actively engaged at the present time in the practice of medicine. Illinois has sixteen, nine of whom are in the city of Chicago.

A Practical Victory

THE *International Woman Suffrage News* for August reports the success of a campaign carried on by Blanche Schweig, a member of the French League for Women's Rights, against the prohibition of night work to women tramway conductors. Their right to work on the shift which ends at 1 A. M. has now been definitely established.

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Mrs. Helena Hill Weed, a Founder of the National Woman's Party, will conduct a special party on this cruise, the members of which, at no additional expense, will make a special study of the women of the countries visited.

For full information address

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